

Preston Rural District Council



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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1964



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Preston Rural District Council



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Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1964

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J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments:

M.O.H. Adlington U.D.C., M.O.H. Chorley R.D.C., M.O.H. Chorley M.B.,
M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C., M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C., M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.,
M.O.H. Walton-le-Dale U.D.C., M.O.H. Withnell U.D.C.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire C.C. Health Division 4.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

N. T. W. POVER, L.M.S.S.A., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

Other Public Appointments:

Senior Assistant Division Medical Officer Lancashire C.C., Health Division 4.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. H. COUPERTHWAITE, F.R.I.C.S., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.P.H.E.
(Died 15th January, 1965)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

T. BAXTER, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.
Appointed Chief Public Health Inspector, 1st February, 1965.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

I. SHEPHERD, M.A.P.H.I.
A. C. CHARLTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

M. EASTHAM

Chief Administrative Officer:

R. SAUNDERS.

Main Address of the Medical Officer of Health:

Lancashire C.C. Health Division 4,
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Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS	8
PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA	12
GENERAL STATISTICS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
NEW LEGISLATION	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
WATER SUPPLIES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
HOUSING	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
SEWAGE DISPOSAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
FACTORIES ACT (ANNUAL REPORT)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43

Public Health Department,
Guildhall Street,
Preston.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964**

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Eighty-fifth Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions, and circumstances of the Preston Rural District in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1964, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid-year rose from 45,110 in the previous year to 45,970. This increase of 860 occurred at a time when there was a fall in the resident population at Whittingham Hospital of about 150. The natural increase (ie. excess of live births over deaths) was 151, or 57 more than in the previous year, but it only accounted for 17% of the population rise; immigration being the principal contributory factor. The number of live births at 784 exceeded the total figure for 1963 by 21 and was again a record figure. The crude rate equivalent of 17.1 per 1,000 population was also up by 0.2. The adjusted rate, which is comparable with the country as a whole, was the same as the national rate. The balance between the sexes over the past decade has been remarkably well maintained—the birth of males exceeding females by only 47. An adverse feature of the birth-rate was the increase in the number of illegitimate live births.

Mortality from all causes was less by 36, compared with the previous year and the crude death-rate fell from 14.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population to 13.8, notwithstanding the high figure of 171 deaths recorded as having occurred amongst inmates of Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals. This rate, when adjusted for differences in population constitution in order to compare it with the rate for England and Wales, becomes 14.9 or 3.6 more than the national rate. The adjusted rate last year, however, was 16.0. Though heart disease continues as the major cause of death, there was a welcome decline in this mortality from 299 deaths in 1963 to 238. This fall is not as significant as it appears. It so happens that the number of recorded deaths from this cause showed a substantial increase in the previous year and the figure of 238 for 1964 is only 7 below the average annual figure of the previous five years. A disturbing feature was the substantial rise in cancer mortality from 76 in 1963 to 105 advancing it to the second principal cause of death with a percentage figure over total deaths of 16.6. The increase affected males just as much as females, but the number of the former who died from lung cancer remained the same as last year. It is pleasing to record a decline in deaths from motor vehicle accidents during the past five years as compared with the period 1954/58 as the following figures illustrate:—

1955	6	1960	4
1956	7	1961	4
1957	12	1962	6
1958	6	1963	13
1959	9	1964	4
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	40		31
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Bearing in mind the considerable increase in the volume of traffic during the past five years especially in Preston and District, which is one of the most heavily trafficked areas in the country, the above figures are a well-deserved testimony to the concentrated effort made by all those dedicated persons who organise and participate in Road Safety Campaigns conducted in the Council's area.

The figure of infant deaths at 15 was 5 more than in 1963 and the mortality rate per 1,000 live births rose from 13.1 to 19.1. It should be remembered, however, that when a preventive service in a particular field of mortality has reduced the mortality to figures of apparent numerical insignificance, a small increase in the number of deaths in a particular year can cause a comparison with previous years to be extremely unfavourable. The above mortality rate is in fact similar to the average rate for Rural Districts in the Administrative County. There were no maternal deaths. Three persons died as a result of respiratory tuberculosis.

Reviewing the prevalence of infections and other notifiable diseases, the year was marked by the continued high incidence of measles, a sharp increase in the number of notified cases of whooping cough compared with recent years and a decline in the incidence of dysentery, a pleasing feature being that not a single case occurred at the Whittingham Hospital.

The District Public Health Inspectors were called upon to investigate a number of outbreaks of ill-defined sickness and diarrhoea at schools in Barton, Goosnargh, Grimsargh, Lee, Penwortham and Samlesbury. Every individual case was thoroughly investigated and a great deal of time and effort was expended. Dedicated field work by the Public Health Inspector is indispensable in arresting primary spread and preventing secondary infection. Never was this more clearly demonstrated than in connection with the large-scale outbreak of typhoid fever which occurred at Aberdeen. Several letters were received from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health requesting the Department to secure the withdrawal of certain tins of corned beef imported from Argentine and Uruguay and also 6 lb. tins of tongue. We were also asked to check on the possibility of food handlers having been to Aberdeen during the critical period of the outbreak. Altogether, about 900 circular letters were despatched to food establishments in the Rural District and 200 personal visits made. During the course of the enquiries it was discovered that a motor coach full of local people had visited Aberdeen, immediately prior to the outbreak. All those residing in the Rural District were kept under surveillance for an appropriate period of time and faeces specimens were taken, but with negative results.

A continuing problem is the infection of milk by the organism *brucella abortus* which causes contagious abortion in cattle. Milk which is infected with this organism may cause the disease known as undulant fever in human beings if the milk is consumed in its raw state. Such milk is, however, rendered safe by heat treatment such as pasteurisation which kills the *brucella* organisms. Other

avenues of human infection with this organism are the handling of infected animals by farmers, farm workers and veterinary surgeons, the handling of infected carcasses by slaughtermen, meat inspectors and butchers, and finally the handling of infected excreta and litter by farmers and stockmen

During the past year several samples of raw milk being retailed in the district were found to be infected and the Public Health Inspectors spent a very considerable amount of time obtaining samples from individual cows with a view to identifying those infected and arranging for milk from such animals to be pasteurised. This procedure, however, fails to get at the root of the problem as no control can be exercised over the disposal of infected animals which can easily be sold at cattle markets and taken into other herds.

The only sound solution would seem to be the compulsory pasteurisation of all milk and the implementation of a scheme to eradicate the disease in cattle as has been achieved in some other countries.

The Council's present housing policy of building special type dwellings for aged persons is helping to meet what would appear to be an ever-increasing demand for this type of accommodation, and I feel that this policy should continue at least for the time being. The problem obviously is more acute in parishes where the population is rapidly increasing, such as Hutton, Longton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole.

In concluding this introduction, I would like to record a tribute to the late Mr. W. H Couperthwaite with whom I worked in close harmony for five years. He was a man of exceptional accomplishment who was always willing at any time, regardless of the effort required, to assist a colleague and I personally placed much value on his judgment. As far as the Local Government Service is concerned he was a national figure and held in high regard, and will be missed by many.

I should also like to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council and in particular to the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement and I acknowledge the help received from Mr. Young, Mr. Baxter and the Staff of the Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the year 1964.

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1964.

The weather for the year 1964 can be described as average for Preston with temperatures about normal with a little more sunshine than average in April and May, a dry Winter, a wet and warm Spring, a cool Summer and a warm and very wet Autumn.

The total rainfall for the year was 39.26 inches. Although this value is 3.48 inches below the average for Preston, nevertheless the year was not as dry as 1963. The distribution of the precipitation throughout the months has also followed a different pattern from the previous year. On average in Preston, Spring is a dry season, and Summer is the wettest. In 1964 however, the driest season was Winter and the wettest Autumn.

The amount of rainfall for each season expressed as a percentage of the total was:

	1964	Average
Winter	13.1%	21.5%
Spring	24.3	19.1
Summer	27.8	29.8
Autumn	34.8	29.6

Winter and Summer were drier than average while both Spring and Autumn were wetter than average. The wettest period was from October to December when a total of 11.96 inches of precipitation was recorded. When the months of October, November and December are considered individually, it is found that both October and November were drier than usual. In the early part of December there were three days, within a week, when the precipitation was over 1 inch and this was responsible for making the Autumn wetter than average. With the exception of April, May and December all the other months of the year were drier than average, the driest month being February when less than 1 inch of rain was recorded. The wettest month was December when the total amount of rain was 6.32 inches. December 12th was the wettest day of the year when it rained for 24 consecutive hours and flooding was reported both in the town of Preston and the surrounding areas. Only on three days in the whole year was the precipitation above 1 inch, and all three days occurred in December. These were December 8th, 11th and 12th when 1.16; 1.30 and 1.38 inches were recorded respectively.

No wet spell occurred in 1964, but from April 18th to May 4th a rain spell was recorded. An absolute drought occurred from October 25th to November 10th and two dry spells were recorded, the first from February 2nd to February 21st and the second from March 25th to April 10th.

In 1964 there were 181 raindays, 138 of which were classified as wet days, but both these numbers were just below the average for Preston.

The relative humidity for the year was normal. Lower relative humidity (dry air) was recorded on six days and saturation (100%) was recorded on three days.

Of the other forms of precipitation, snow and sleet fell on 14 days, 7 of which were in March but only on five occasions did the snow cover the ground at 09.00 G.M.T., the greatest depth being 2 inches on January 14th.

Hail was recorded on 20 days throughout the year, the only months when hail did not occur being May, July and September. Thunder was heard on 10 occasions. Heavy squally showers occurred on December 30th and soft rime was observed on December 15th.

When we consider the temperature for the year 1964, we find that as a whole the year had a mean temperature equal to the average year for Preston. If this is true for the year as a whole, the departure from the average for each month did not however follow the usual pattern and as a result Spring was warmer and Summer cooler than average.

The months which had a mean temperature higher than the average were January, February, April, May, September and November. In the case of May the temperature for the month was 4°F higher than the normal temperature. The other months of the year, namely March, June, July, August, October and December were all cooler than is usual for these months. July was the warmest month of the year and this agrees with the general pattern of previous years but the coldest month in 1964 was December, while normally in Preston it is January.

The extremes of temperature for the year as a whole did not break any record. The highest maximum (76°.2F.) was reached on August 25th and the lowest minimum (17°.6F) on December 26th. Only on one occasion, namely on December 15th, did the maximum remain below freezing all day.

The lowest grass minimum (10°.3F.) was recorded on December 28th.

During the year there were 51 days of air frost and 96 days of ground frost. Indeed, the only months when no ground frost occurred were May and July.

The barometric pressure was generally high throughout the year reaching a particularly high value on February 8th.

Fog at 09.00 G.M.T. was recorded on 33 days. No dense fog was observed, but in December on two occasions thick fog was recorded.

Winds were average in strength but, as far as direction is concerned an increase in the frequency of easterly winds was noted as in the previous year. Gales were recorded on three days. Following the gales of June 1st and December 7th structural damage was reported in the town.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on 21 days.

The optical phenomena observed during 1964 consisted of 4 solar and 1 lunar halo; 2 solar and 21 lunar coronae; 10 rainbows and 1 double rainbow.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1964 are summarised in the tables which follow:

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum Temp. °F			Date	Lowest Minimum Temp. °F			Date	Lowest Maximum Temp. °F			Date	Highest Minimum Temp. °F			Date
January	50	....	31	....	25	....	18	....	37	....	16	....	41	....	2	
February	57	....	27	....	23	....	6	....	35	....	18	....	47	....	3	
March	55	....	20	....	29	....	27	....	36	....	15	....	43	....	24	
April	66	....	27	....	30	....	5	....	46	....	1	....	52	....	28	
May	74	....	27	....	42	....	16	....	55	....	1	....	56	....	18	
June	74	....	26	....	37	....	20	....	51	....	1	....	57	....	27	
July	71	....	17	....	42	....	27	....	57	....	9	....	59	....	30	
August	76	....	25	....	37	....	20	....	58	....	19	....	59	....	17	
September	72	....	4	....	33	....	21	....	57	....	20, 21	....	58	....	9, 10	
October	63	....	5	....	27	....	24	....	48	....	23	....	52	....	7	
November	56	....	19	....	26	....	30	....	40	....	30	....	52	....	25	
December	55	....	8	....	18	....	26	....	33	....	25	....	46	....	7	
Year	76.2		Aug. 25		17.6		Dec. 26		33.3		Dec. 25		59.2		July 30	

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall inches	Difference from Average inches		No. of Days				Wettest Days		Vapour Pressure in mbs.		Relative Humidity % satur.	
				Rain Days	Wet Days	Fall inch	Date						
January	1.50	....	-1.77	....	12	....	9	....	0.35	....	13	....	87.5
February	0.81	....	-1.62	....	10	....	5	....	0.37	....	23	....	86.7
March	2.15	....	-0.15	....	11	....	8	....	0.82	....	24	....	84.2
April	2.72	....	+0.59	....	21	....	13	....	0.41	....	19	....	77.9
May	3.64	....	+1.14	....	15	....	12	....	0.87	....	10	....	73.3
June	1.97	....	-0.69	....	15	....	12	....	0.36	....	12	....	75.6
July	2.95	....	-0.52	....	17	....	12	....	0.76	....	7	....	80.9
August	4.23	....	-0.01	....	14	....	11	....	0.85	....	6	....	79.0
September	2.33	....	-1.28	....	15	....	11	....	0.90	....	16	....	81.5
October	2.91	....	-0.95	....	15	....	10	....	0.65	....	5	....	89.6
November	2.73	....	-0.89	....	15	....	14	....	0.47	....	13	....	89.5
December	6.32	....	+2.67	....	21	....	18	....	1.38	....	12	....	85.2
Year	34.26		-3.48		181		35		1.38		Dec. 12		82.6

VISIBILITY at 0900 G.M.T.

Number of Days

Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi- bility		Mod. Visi- bility		Good Visi- bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi- bility	
January	0	....	0	....	2	....	6	....	7	....	7	....	6	....	2	....	1	....	0	
February	0	....	0	....	0	....	4	....	4	....	14	....	5	....	0	....	2	....	0	
March	0	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	3	....	12	....	12	....	1	....	2	....	0	
April	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	3	....	6	....	16	....	3	....	2	....	0	
May	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	4	....	16	....	5	....	6	....	0	
June	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	5	....	10	....	9	....	6	....	0	
July	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	4	....	16	....	7	....	4	....	0	
August	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	11	....	14	....	4	....	1	....	0	
September	0	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	1	....	10	....	13	....	2	....	3	....	0	
October	0	....	0	....	1	....	7	....	2	....	9	....	8	....	2	....	2	....	0	
November	0	....	0	....	1	....	5	....	1	....	12	....	6	....	3	....	2	....	0	
December	0	....	2	....	1	....	2	....	3	....	8	....	8	....	6	....	1	....	0	
Year	0		2		5		26		25		102		130		44		32		0	

WEATHER (Number of Days)

Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet		Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.		Hail		Thunder heard		fog at 0900 G.M.T.		Gale Wind- force 8 or above		Ground Frost		Air Frost	
January	2	....	1	....	1	....	0	....	8	....	0	....	17	....	12	
February	3	....	0	....	2	....	0	....	4	....	0	....	12	....	11	
March	7	....	1	....	3	....	0	....	1	....	0	....	16	....	7	
April	0	....	0	....	1	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	10	....	3	
May	0	....	0	....	0	....	2	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	
June	0	....	0	....	0	....	2	....	0	....	1	....	1	....	0	
July	0	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	0	....	0	....	0	....	0	
August	0	....	0	....	1	....	2	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	0	
September	0	....	0	....	0	....	2	....	1	....	0	....	1	....	0	
October	0	....	0	....	2	....	0	....	8	....	1	....	9	....	1	
November	0	....	0	....	4	....	0	....	6	....	0	....	12	....	4	
December	2	....	3	....	5	....	1	....	5	....	1	....	17	....	13	
Year	14	....	5	....	20	....	10	....	33	....	3	....	96	....	51	

Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east, heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces, along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks, unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g. Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous feature of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west, and occurs beneath the "drift" in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh, and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries", are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTICS AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,754.
- (2) Population (Census 1961)—43,503.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of home population, 1964—45,970.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1961)—13,294.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1964, according to Rate Book—14,807.
- (6) Rateable value, 31st March, 1964—£1,563,139.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£6262 (31st March, 1964).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1964.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situated at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at Broughton, New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 40 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1964, was 45,970, an increase of 860 compared with the estimate of 45,110 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District was 151, the sixth time such an increase has taken place since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e. 1st January, 1954). Ignoring these deaths, the natural increase in the population was 322. The number of persons per acre was 0.92, and the number of acres per person 1.08.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD	DEATHS (all causes)		LIVE BIRTHS		STILL- BIRTHS		LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS TOTAL	INFANT MORTALITY					NEO- NATAL	ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	MATERNAL MORTALITY	
	TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL			TOTAL		Rate per 1000 illegit- imate live births	Rate per 1000 live births	per cent of total live births			No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births
	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Popula- tion	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Popula- tion	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live Births		Rate per 1000 legitimate Live Births	No. of Deaths Regis- tered							
Year ... 1964...	633	*13.8	784	*17.1	8	10.1	792	15	19.1	20.1	71	10.2	3.5	—	—	
Year ... 1963...	669	14.8	763	16.9	20	25.5	783	10	13.1	12.1	50	6.6	2.6	—	—	
1962 ...	606	13.6	754	16.9	16	20.8	770	17	22.5	23.1	—	18.6	2.5	—	—	
1961 ...	626	14.4	703	16.2	11	15.6	714	12	17.1	17.4	58	14.2	2.4	1	1.40	
1960 ...	596	14.5	654	15.9	12	18.0	666	18	27.5	28.3	—	22.9	2.7	1	1.50	
1959 ...	590	14.5	625	15.3	9	14.2	634	12	19.2	18.0	62	16.0	2.4	—	—	
Average 5 years : 1959 — 1963	—	14.3	—	16.2	—	18.8	—	—	19.9	19.8	34	15.6	—	—	0.58	

* Adjusted (live birth-rate; comparability factor, 1.08) = 18.4 per 1,000
(death-rate; comparability factor, 1.08) = 14.9 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1964 number 784 (males 394, females 390); 9 more than in the year 1963.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 17.1 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 16.9. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 18.4. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1964 was also 18.4.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1964 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for the previous decade are also given :

Year	Males	Females	Total
1954	257	223	480
1955	282	278	560
1956	280	278	558
1957	302	281	583
1958	282	301	583
1959	319	306	625
1960	326	328	654
1961	341	362	703
1962	364	390	754
1963	417	346	763
1964	394	390	784

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

The figure for 1964 is 151, the sixth successive natural increase in the population of the Rural District since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e. 1st January, 1954). If such deaths are omitted then the natural increase in the population for the period of the last decade is as follows :

Year 1955	128	Year 1960	212
„ 1956	121	„ 1961	257
„ 1957	126	„ 1962	294
„ 1958	155	„ 1963	264
„ 1959	233	„ 1964	322

Illegitimate Live Births. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1964 compared with that of every other year of the last decade is shown below :

Year 1955	16	Year 1960	18
„ 1956	10	„ 1961	17
„ 1957	20	„ 1962	19
„ 1958	14	„ 1963	20
„ 1959	16	„ 1964	28

The number of illegitimate live births at 28 was 10.2 above the average for the past ten years. The percentage figure of total live births at 3.5, however, is below the average yearly figure for the Administrative County during the last decade.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1964 was eight (3 male, 5 female), or 12 less than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 10.1 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.18 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.31.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1964 numbered 633 (males 310, females 323). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the district, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District calculated on a home population of 45,970 is 13.8 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 14.8. The average death-rate for the five years 1959-1963 was 14.3.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 14.9 per 1,000 as against last year's adjusted rate of 16.0

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1964 was 11.3 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Between 60 and 70 per cent. of all deaths each year are classified to causes falling within three main groups—heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system. The relative importance of these and of other principal causes of death in 1964 is shown in the following table :

Cause of Death	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	238	37.6
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia)	105	16.6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	89	14.0
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	57	9.0
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	24	3.8
Other circulatory disease	17	2.7

To compare the above figures with the previous year reveals not only a change in the order of importance, but also a significant variation in the proportionate distribution of deaths amongst the cause groups. An appreciable increase in deaths from cancer, coupled with a fairly substantial decrease in mortality from vascular lesions of the nervous system, has resulted in the former being promoted to the second principal cause. There was also a marked decline in deaths from heart disease and a welcome though smaller decline in violent death.

In the following paragraphs, further details are given of the chief causes of death.

HEART DISEASES. The deaths classified to the heart disease as grouped in the Registrar-General's Short List and assigned to the Rural District in 1964 are shown in the following table, together with the resultant death-rates per 1,000 of the estimated home population and the corresponding figures for the previous five years.

Year	Coronary disease angina		Hypertension with heart disease		other heart disease		Total all forms	
	No. of deaths	Death rate	No. of deaths	Death rate	No. of deaths	Death rate	No. of deaths	Death rate
1960	100	2.42	27	0.65	110	2.67	237	5.74
1961	118	2.71	21	0.48	118	2.71	257	5.91
1962	106	2.38	19	0.42	96	2.16	221	4.96
1963	138	3.06	26	0.57	135	3.00	299	6.63
1964	122	2.65	14	0.30	102	2.21	238	5.10

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPOIETIC TISSUES

This group of causes is included in the Registrar-General's Short List under the headings used in the table below, which gives particulars of deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1964 and the previous year by sex :

Classification	1964			1963		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	8	3	11	8	5	13
Lung, Bronchus	18	2	20	18	4	22
Breast	—	10	10	—	7	7
Uterus	—	7	7	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	28	56	11	16	27
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1	4	1	5
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms	55	50	105	41	35	76
	—	—	—	—	—	—

The increase in total mortality from cancer during 1964, as compared with the previous year was principally due to a substantial rise in the number of deaths ascribed to "other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms". This is of little significance, however, as it follows a year in which there was an almost equivalent reduction.

Of the total deaths from all causes assigned to the Rural District in 1964, the 105 classified to all forms of cancer represented 16.6 per cent and were equivalent to a rate of 2.28 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, which is more than the average rate for Rural Districts in the Administrative County and 0.07 above the rate for England and Wales.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Deaths ascribed to vascular lesions of the nervous system and assigned to the Rural District during 1964 numbered 89, representing a decrease of 19 compared with the previous year. The resultant rate at 1.93 per 1,000 of the estimated home population was 0.46 below the rate for the previous year, and the percentage figure of total deaths declined from 16.1 to 14.0.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

57 deaths were assigned to this group; Pneumonia 30, Bronchitis 27. There were no deaths from Influenza. The 57 recorded deaths were one less than the total figure for 1963, but 7 more than the average annual figure of the previous decade. The corresponding figures for 1963 were Pneumonia 28, Bronchitis 28 and Influenza 2.

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Death—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. The deaths thus classified and assigned to the Rural District in 1964, taking them in the same order, were 4, 13, 7 and nil, a total of 24 compared with 31 recorded deaths during 1963. The decrease is attributable to a 23 per cent reduction in deaths occurring as a result of motor vehicle accidents, and the percentage figure of total deaths declined from 4.6 to 2.7.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

This classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except heart diseases mentioned earlier, accounted in 1964 for 17 deaths, 3 less than last year, and the percentage figure of total deaths fell from 2.9 to 2.7. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population was 0.37 compared with rates of 0.44 and 0.45 for 1963 and 1962 respectively.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1964, distinguishing males and females and at different periods of life, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950) subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks Under and under		Age in years								
			4 weeks	1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 & over
1. Tuberculosis— respiratory	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
2. Tuberculosis— other	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	M	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	6	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	3
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1

Cause of death	Sex	4 weeks											
		Total all ages	Under and under		Age in Years								
			4 weeks	1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 & over
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	8	8	5
	F	28	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	4	11	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	M	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	8	9
	F	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	16	41
18. Coronary disease, angina	M	72	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	24	21	17
	F	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	9	11	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8
20. Other heart disease	M	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	11	26
	F	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	7	42
21. Other circulatory disease	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	6
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
22. Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	M	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	4
	F	18	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	13
24. Bronchitis	M	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	7	9
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	M	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	22	4	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	3	5	4
	F	37	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	1	5	6	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
34. All other accidents	M	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
	F	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3
35. Suicide	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL AL CAUSES	M	310	5	4	2	3	3	2	11	24	75	88	93
	F	323	3	3	2	1	—	2	6	22	45	68	171

INFANT MORTALITY

The death of infants under the age of one year numbered 15 (males 9, females 6) representing an increase of 50 per cent. compared with 1963. About half of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth. Associated with the rise in total live births, they were equivalent to a rate of 19.1 per 1,000, which is similar to the average rate for Rural Districts in the Administrative County over the past three years. The rate for England and Wales for 1964 was 20.0

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1964 of infants at stated age periods:—

Causes of Death.	DAYS												MONTHS												Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12				
Congenital Malformations	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Other Diseases of Respiratory System		
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Birth Injuries		
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy		1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
All other causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Totals	...	5	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	15

NEO-NATAL, EARLY NEO-NATAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY.

The Registrar-General, in addition to supplying particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age), has also supplied information as to the deaths of infants under one week of age (early neo-natal mortality) and has also included the perinatal mortality rate, i.e., the number of still-births, and early neo-natal deaths over the total live and stillbirths.

The number of infant deaths occurring under the age of four weeks expressed as a percentage of the total infant mortality rose from 40 in 1963 to 53 in the year under review. The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births at 10.2 was 5.4 less than the average annual rate for the preceding five years and 3.6 below the rate for England and Wales. The early neo-natal mortality rate was also 10.2 per 1,000 live births, and the perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births 20.2.

Maternal mortality. No maternal deaths were recorded during 1964.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston, and transport arrangements are satisfactory in all respects.

SMALLPOX. For the thirty-fifth successive year no case of smallpox was notified within the Rural District.

DIPHTHERIA. This disease has also failed to appear in the register of notifications during the past 14 years, and in 1963 it was entirely absent from the area of the Administrative County for the first time ever.

MEASLES. The 649 notified cases of measles were 300 more than in 1963, and 235 in excess of the average annual figure of the preceding five years. The records disclose that there has been a comparatively high incidence of this disease ever since 1958.

WHOOPING COUGH. The number of notified cases has risen sharply since the unprecedented decline in incidence during 1961 and 1962 as the following figures for the past decade illustrate: —

1955	10	1960	38
1956	79	1961	1
1957	45	1962	Nil
1958	Nil	1963	17
1959	18	1964	22

SCARLET FEVER. The 36 recorded cases of this disease were 20 more than the total for 1963, but 2 less than the average annual figure of the preceding five years. According to local reports, no death classifiable to this cause occurred.

DYSENTERY. In 1963 a sharp decline in notification of dysentery to a total of 21 was reported and during the period under review the decline continued to a record low level with only 15 cases notified in the Rural District. Four were single cases. Of the remainder, faeces specimens taken from 5 patients gave negative results. The other cases concerned children affected with the organism "Shigella Sonnei". In one instance, two children had to be excluded from attendance at a Day Nursery until negative specimens had been received and they had recovered normal health. In another, the mother of one of the patients was employed as a food handler and, after an approach had been made to her employer, she was temporarily transferred to work not involving the handling of food.

A feature of the incidence of dysentery which is worth while to record is that not a single notified case occurred in Whittingham Hospital and the following figures illustrate the decline in notification of the disease from the Hospital during the past decade: —

1955	20	1960	42
1956	24	1961	19
1957	27	1962	8
1958	109	1963	4
1959	8	1964	Nil

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS. A disease which is not notifiable, but to which some attention has been given is Infective Hepatitis or Epidemic Jaundice as it is more commonly known. The infection is caused by a virus and the mode of spread is possibly by intimate person to person contact. The period of infection is uncertain,

but most probably from a few days before to a few days after onset. The incubation period is long and variable ranging from 10 to 40 days, but commonly 25 days. A number of cases occurred at an infants' school in Farington and an informative circular was forwarded to the Head of the School and a letter of advice sent to the parents of each patient. The need for strict personal hygiene was strongly emphasised and parents were advised to consult the family doctor before allowing the child to return to school. One of the difficulties in controlling this disease is that a large proportion of infected cases do not show any symptoms.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION. The only case recorded concerned a boy aged 6 who was admitted to hospital but discharged after 3 weeks quite well and in normal health.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS. Two cases were reported—the first concerned a schoolboy aged 11 (post infectious), and the second, a child aged 4 (infective). Both patients were admitted to hospital but though they recovered sufficiently to be discharged, they are still attending the hospital's out-patient department.

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1964 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital.

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1964, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age un-known	
Scarlet Fever	36			4	4	7	18	2	1		—	
Whooping Cough	22	2	2	5	—	4	5	4				
Acute Poliomyelitis	—											
Paralytic	—											
Non-paralytic	—											
Measles (excluding rubella)	649	24	68	91	94	104	238	14	3	2	11	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	15	2	2	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	
Meningococcal Infection	1						1					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—											
		0-	5		15		45		65 and over		Age un-known	3
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	2				1				1			
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	1		1									
Post-infectious	1				1							
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	—											
Erysipelas	3	—	—		1		1		1			
Food Poisoning	1	—			1							
Tuberculosis												
Respiratory	10	—	1		1		6		2		3	
Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—		—		—		—			
Other	—	—			—		—		—			1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—				—						—	

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1964, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	14	2	...	...	56	...	5	...
Goosnargh	...	...	3	...	19	...	2	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	...
Lea ...	...	...	7	...	77	...	1	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	53	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	57	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
Penwortham	17	1	1	...	269	...	14	...
Ribchester	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	5	...	4	...	39	...	...	...
1964 TOTAL ...	36	3	15	...	649	...	22	...
1963 TOTAL ...	16	8	21	4	349	...	17	...
1962 TOTAL ...	23	10	146	10	474	...	...	...
1961 TOTAL ...	30	17	79	19	340	...	1	...
1960 TOTAL ...	54	20	140	46	472	...	38	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the Administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Region Hospitals Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12 Walton's Parade, Preston.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1964, together with the deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
65 ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
75 and upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	7	4	..	...	2	1	1	...
	11		...		3		1	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1964	7	4	—	—	2	1	1	—
1963	10	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
1962	16	5	1	1	4	—	—	—
1961	8	7	—	—	—	2	—	—
1960	6	5	2	1	1	—	—	1
1959	12	7	1	—	2	—	—	—

The 11 new cases added to the register during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 5, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 5, (3) people transferred into the area 1.

Removals from the register numbered 9; 3 patients died, 4 recovered, and 2 patients were transferred to another administrative area

National Assistance Act, 1948.

(Section 47)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

Number of applications made during the year Nil

Number of Orders made Nil

SCHOOLS

There are 40 schools in the Rural Area providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the sanitary circumstances prevailing at these schools are categorised below, viz :

No. of schools with fresh water closets	39
No of schools with chemical closets	1
No. of schools with drainage to public sewers	22
No. of schools with drainage to private treatment works	17
No. of schools with dustbins	40
No. of schools with water supply from public mains	40
No of schools with satisfactory drinking facilities	40
No. of schools with satisfactory washing facilities	38
No of schools with satisfactory yard surfaces	36

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1964, except where otherwise stated :

Housing Act, 1964.

Local Government (Pecuniary Interests) Act, 1964.

New Towns Act, 1964.

Protection from Eviction Act, 1964

Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964.

Rating (Interim Relief) Act, 1964.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Meat (Treatment) Regulations, 1964.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

(Appointed Day) Orders, 1964.

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations (Appointed Day) Orders, 1964.

Land Drainage (Compensation) Regulations, 1964.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963—various Orders & Regulations.

Town & Country Planning General Development (Amendment) Order, 1964.

Town & Country Planning General Regulations, 1964.

Diseases of Animals (Seizure of Carcases, etc.) Order, 1964.

Registration (Births, Still-births, Deaths and Marriages) Amendment Regulations, 1964.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The District Public Health Inspectors have, over the past few years, made effective use of the Food Hygiene Regulations in order to secure the carrying out of substantial works of improvement at food premises in the Rural District, and the following schedule illustrates the nature of the works and the number of premises involved :

Nature of Work	No. of premises
(1) Installation of wash basin with hot and cold water supplies and toilet requisites	100
(2) Installation of sink with hot and cold water supplies and washing utensil requisites	33
(3) Provision of hot water supply to sink or wash basin	17
(4) Repairs and improvements to premises and fixtures	85
(5) Cleansing of premises	38
(6) Provision of adequate ventilation	33
(7) Provision of first-aid equipment	20
(8) Provision of suitable food store	10
(9) Provision of storage accommodation for utensils	6

The standard of personal hygiene of people employed in the food trade has also shown a marked improvement, but the introduction of casual staff during summer months, particularly in the catering section, usually results in a lower standard than that which generally prevails

A problem also exists in connection with the sale of "open food" from mobile shops. The present Regulations only provide for the provision of adequate washing facilities when "open food" is sold for immediate consumption. It is essential that such facilities should be provided when "open food" is sold whether for immediate consumption or not

Other functions during the year included regular visits in connection with meat inspection, sampling of milk and inspection of dairies.

The following list gives the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year under review.

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers	110
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	22
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	2
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	22
Bakers and/or confectioners	35
Fried fish shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	39
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	96
Others	26
Total	367

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1951, are as follows :

Type of Business	Act	No.
Ice cream,	Section 16, F. and D., 1955	156
Preserved food, etc.	ditto	9
Hawkers' premises	Section 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	22

One hundred and fifty-four of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING. There was only a single case of food poisoning recorded during 1964, compared with two cases in the previous year.

This concerned a boy aged 10 who resided at a milk producing farm. Apparently a week before the official notification was received, he had experienced severe diarrhoea for about 48 hours, and other members of the family admitted that they had been similarly affected. Immediate enquiries with regard to the milk produced at the farm revealed that the entire supply was being sent for pasturisation.

Intensive enquiries were also made at the school attended by the patient, but none of the students or members of the staff had recently experienced symptoms of food poisoning. The Public Health Laboratory subsequently reported that the food poisoning organism "Salmonella Typhi-murium" had been isolated from the faeces specimen taken from the patient, but that the remainder were negative. Even though the patient quickly recovered normal health, arrangements were made with the Medical Practitioner in attendance for the boy to receive medical treatment until he was free from the infection.

UN SOUND FOOD. A number of complaints of unsound foodstuffs made by members of the general public were investigated by the Department during 1964, and representatives from the manufacturing firms concerned were interviewed at the Council Offices. A high degree of co-operation resulted, and the managements of the firms took immediate steps to prevent recurrences of the complaints. The Department is only too pleased to investigate such matters, as the enquiries which follow invariably assist in the maintenance of a high standard of food hygiene.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 29 cwts. Wherever possible the food was diverted for animal feeding. The protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume is an important duty of the District Public Health Inspector. Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1964 because the purveyors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1964, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out. :

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	205	34	..	997	32	...
Number inspected	205	34	...	997	32	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	78	33	...	141	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	35	16	...	14	...	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	1	...	...	...	...
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	3	1	...	...	...	.
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsound carcase meat, approximately 17 cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouse.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 243 samples was obtained, consisting of 146 samples of milk (18 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 97 others, comprising :

3 Tea	1 Salad cream
1 Candy sugar	1 Zinc and castor oil cream B.P.
1 Castor sugar	3 Lard
3 Gravy browning	1 Cream sterilised
1 Sausages (canned)	1 Honey
2 Glycerine B.P.	1 Paynocil tabs.
2 Olive oil B.P.	1 Panadol tab.
1 Cremotresamide	2 Butter
1 Malt, milk and cocoa beverage	3 Bacon
1 Dried vegetables	1 Fruit dried (currants)
1 Gravy improver	1 Fruit dried (sultanas)
1 Coconut	1 Luncheon meat (part opened)
1 Salted peanuts	1 Grapefruit (open can)
1 Flavouring matter	1 Sago
3 White bread	2 Black treacle
1 Brown bread	3 Semolina
1 Mustard Compound	1 Milk pudding (canned)
2 Blancmange Powder	2 Tapioca
1 Gravy powder	1 Ice lolly
1 Marmalade	2 Ice cream lolly
1 Oatmeal	2 Cheese
4 Fruit (canned)	1 Shredded suet
1 Jam (canned)	1 Barley
1 Jam (jar)	1 Mincemeat
1 Beef Steak with gravy	2 Pork sausage
1 Flour confectionery	2 Cake decorations (edible)
1 Hydro-salurick tabs.	1 Cocoa
1 Tomatoes fresh	1 Plain flour
3 Ice-cream	1 White pepper
1 Black pudding	1 Self-raising flour
1 Coffee extract (dried)	1 Mixed pickles
1 Coffee	1 Walnuts
1 Fruit curd	1 Peanuts (unsalted)
1 Cooking fat	1 Demerara sugar
2 Camphorated oil B.P.	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 formal milk	Fat 2.8%, deficient 6.6% fat	Dairy notified
1 formal milk*	Contained 0.02 international units penicillin per ml.	Farmer and Milk Marketing Board notified.
1 formal milk*	Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Farmer and Milk Marketing Board informed.
1 informal milk*	Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Farmer and Milk Marketing Board informed.
1 informal milk	Freezing point indicated 0.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned. Further sample obtained.
1 beef steak with gravy	Label defect (also meat content 68%).	Importers contacted.
1 formal milk*	Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Farmer and Milk Marketing Board informed.
1 informal milk	Contained 0.01 international units penicillin per ml.	Dairy informed.
1 black pudding	Contained small portion of herb flower consisting of calyx and sepals.	Informed complainant and manufacturers.
1 luncheon meat (half open can)	Meat surface stained with 0.05 ml. of iron at a point coinciding with a displacement of the sealing compound in the overlap of the end seam of the can. Meat free from taint.	Complainant informed.
1 grapefruit (open can)	Contained a plastic disc 1½ in. in diameter weighing 2.07 grammes. The disc had a small hole near the edge and bore the number 26 in light blue raised numerals.	Importers communicated with.
1 Semolina	Packet contained approximately 3 dozen book-lice.	Remaining stock examined for infestation
1 Pork sausage	Meat content poor — 62.5%. Contained 185 parts/million of sulphite preservative expressed as sulphur dioxide without declaration.	Vendor notified regarding the preservative.

(*Channel Islands milk)

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Year	Total No. of samples	No. of adulterated samples	Percentage of adulteration
1959	220	9	4.0
1960	213	14	6.5
1961	242	11	4.5
1962	232	6	2.6
1963	243	13	5.3

Water Supplies

The two major sources of water distribution in the Rural District are the Preston & District and Fylde Water Boards, who supply 37,000 and 8,850 water consumers respectively. Both supplies are controlled at source by both chemical and bacteriological tests not only of raw water, but, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply. Notwithstanding this, routine sampling from domestic taps in the various townships was carried out by Officers of the Council during 1964, with the results that two out of the total of 19 were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. The Board concerned was immediately informed and follow-up samples produced excellent reports. The two supplies are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, and the fluoride content is 0.05 p.p.m. for the Preston water and less than 0.1 p.p.m. for Fylde water. The quality and quantity of the public water supplies is generally good. It was reported last year that a scheme was being prepared by the Preston and District Water Board to bring water from the public main to the majority of properties in the parish of Dutton. The scheme is now in progress and the works are well advanced.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the various townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1964		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
Barton	77	546	1622	...	...	6	17
Broughton	1	177	540	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	10	45	...	...	...	...
Dutton	17	61	...	...	48	137
Farington	21	1495	4481	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh	1	279	1066	...	...	37	110
Grimsargh	10	288	878	...	...	...	...
Haighton	63	237	...	...	4	11
Hothersall	37	147	...	...	4	12
Hutton	82	716	1931	...	...	...	...
Lea	21	1109	3662	...	...	2	6
Little Hoole	27	300	780	...	...	...	...
Longton	247	1903	5043	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole	6	273	798	...	...	2	7
Penwortham	70	5550	16015	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	15	452	1327	...	...	16	47
Samlesbury	6	368	1166	...	...	4	12
Whittingham...	...	22	502	3980	...	...	24	72
Woodplumpton	43	541	1649	...	...	34	111
TOTAL Whole District	...	649	14626	45428	...	...	181	542

Housing

The following table categorises the present position with regard to the Housing Waiting List, and gives the number of applicants in each locality, the type of accommodation required, and the number of agricultural applicants.

Parish	Houses	Flats	Total
Barton and Broughton	3	2	5
Farington	2	6	8
Grimsargh	2	—	2
Lea	2	1	3
Hoole	—	—	—
Longton and Hutton	4	5	9
Penwortham	17	25	42
Ribchester	3	1	4
Samlesbury	2	1	3
Whittingham	1	—	1
Woodplumpton	2	1	3
Total on General List	38	42	80
Total of agricultural applicants	16	—	16
Grand Total	54	42	96

52 families were rehoused in existing Council houses which became available for re-letting during 1964, representing a rate of annual voids of 3.6 per cent. This was 2.4 below the rate for 1963 and 0.4 below the average annual rate of recent years. Notwithstanding this reduction, when the rate is compared with the demand illustrated by the above housing waiting list, it is apparent that annual voids are occurring at a rate sufficient to meet the present general needs.

The only demand now is for housing of a special character and at the end of 1964, the Council's second special housing unit for aged persons was nearing completion with half of the one bedroomed bungalows already being occupied. The programme for 1965 provides for the erection of 24 two-bedroomed flats and 22 one-bedroomed bungalows on two sites in the parish of Penwortham, and 4 agricultural dwellings on a site in the parish of Farington.

NEW HOUSING

The following table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected and gives a comparison with the previous year :

Parish	1964			1963		
	Private enterprise	Council	Total	Private enterprise	Council	Total
Barton	62	15	77	22	—	22
Broughton	1	—	1	3	—	3
Cuerdale	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farington	21	—	21	4	—	4
Goosnargh	1	—	1	2	—	2
Grimsargh	10	—	10	20	—	20
Haighton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hothersall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hutton	82	—	82	52	—	52
Lea	27	—	27	3	—	3
Little Hoole	21	—	21	7	—	7
Longton	247	—	247	180	—	180
Much Hoole	6	—	6	20	—	20
Penwortham	70	—	70	81	70	151
Ribchester	15	—	15	2	—	2
Samlesbury	6	—	6	—	—	—
Whittingham	22	—	22	4	—	4
Woodplumpton	43	—	43	14	—	14
Totals	634	15	649	414	70	484

646 applications for proposed works were considered under the Council's Building Byelaws and approved, and 992 applications in connection with all forms of development were dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Acts in the following manner :

Classified as "Permitted Development"	433
Permission granted	379
Permission refused	148
Deferred	23
Application withdrawn	9

The number of inhabited houses now stands at 14,807, and the following table analyses this total by age :

Not more than 10 years old	3832
Between 10 and 20 years old	1846
Between 20 and 30 years old	2244
Between 30 and 40 years old	3281
Between 40 and 50 years old	1127
Over 50 years old	2477

HOUSING PROGRESS — 1945 to 1964

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)	Scheme	No. of dwellings
	Penwortham and Farington	22
	Woodplumpton	16
	Lea	40
	Woodville Street, Farington	12
	School Street, Farington	10
	Penwortham	52
	Barton	40
	Samlesbury	16
	Grimsargh	22
	Woodplumpton	8
	Little Hoole	24
	Much Hoole	24
	Goosnargh	28
	Longton	29
	Ribchester	22
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	80
	New Longton	36
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
	Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract	18
	Airey Rural Houses	84
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
	Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
	Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	50
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
	Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract	106
	Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	76
	Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	58
	Shops and Flats, Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham	6
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Contract	54
	Studholme Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	29
	Woodplumpton	10
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—5th Contract	54
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—6th Contract	76
	Total	1,418

(2)	Constructed by	Completed	Dwellings Under Construction	Not yet Started
	Barton—Special Unit for Aged Persons	15	16	—

(3)	No. of dwellings
Farington—Agricultural Dwellings	4
Penwortham—Housing for Special Needs	46

OVERSPILL

Altogether, 312 houses and flats have been erected in the Kingsfold Development Area in the parish of Penwortham and occupied by overspill population from the Preston C.B.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board, and Private Builders

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December 1964, was as follows :

	Completed	Dwellings under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council	125	—	—
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	15	—	—
Private Builders	3582	416	257
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	4183	416	257
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNFIT HOUSES

A comprehensive statement on the Council's provisional slum clearance programme is included in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, and in order to avoid repetition, the statistics produced hereafter relate only to the year under review.

Houses demolished

1. In clearance area	Nil
2. Not in clearance areas	22
3. No. of displaced persons re-housed	9

Unfit houses closed

1. Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1), & 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	3
2. No. of displaced persons re-housed	1

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied

1. After informal action by local authority	14
2. After formal notice under—	
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1937	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

1. No of houses at the end of the year retained for temporary accommodation under Section 48, 17 (2) and 46	Nil
2. No. of houses licensed for temporary occupation under sections 34 or 53	Nil

Purchase of houses by agreement

No. of houses in clearance areas, other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year	Nil
--	-----

Houses improved by grant aid under the Housing Act, 1949, etc.

Number of schemes submitted:

1. By local authority to Ministry	Nil
2. By private individuals to the local authority	13
(a) No. of schemes completed during the year	8
(b) Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes	12

Houses provided with certain standard amenities under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

No. of schemes submitted to the local authority	56
No. of schemes approved	59
No. of schemes completed during the year	51

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in five townships, viz.: Barton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester. In addition, Grimsargh and areas of Lea and Samlesbury are sewered to outfalls outside the district.

The several comprehensive schemes of sewerage recently completed or in the process of completion have greatly improved the sewage situation in the Rural Area, and the following table indicates the present position in the various parishes.

The total population figure of 4,052 for the parish of Whittingham includes some 2,350 patients and resident staff of the Whittingham Hospital, which has its own sewage treatment works. Accordingly, the total population figure given in the right-hand column of the table would be more accurately quoted at 7,779.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	486	1424	66	215
Broughton ...	75	230	102	310
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	45
Dutton ...	...	...	65	198
Farington ...	1373	4115	122	366
Goosnargh ...	40	151	276	1025
Grimsargh ...	251	756	37	122
Haighton ...	...	...	67	248
Hothersall ...	...	...	41	159
Hutton ...	597	1605	119	326
Lea ...	845	2850	266	818
Little Hoole ...	257	650	43	130
Longton ...	1860	4897	43	146
Much Hoole ...	222	656	53	149
Penwortham ...	5538	15979	12	36
Ribchester ...	321	938	147	436
Samlesbury ...	122	384	250	794
Whittingham ...	302	962	224	3090
Woodplumpton	78	244	497	1516
TOTAL Whole District	12367	35841	2440	10129

Factories Act, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1964, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are however, four Cotton Mills at Farington and Ribchester, two Paper Mills at Samlesbury, and two small Iron Foundries at Whittingham. In addition, and in recent times, two large modern and well-equipped factories have been erected at Farington, occupied by Messrs. Leyland Motors Ltd. and the B.T.R. Industries Ltd.

Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction recorded on the register under Section 1 (iii) of the Report were, with the exception of six established sites at the commencement of the year complying with the requirements of Section 7.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 Part I of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	112	27	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	29	6	—	—
TOTAL ...	141	33	5	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	1	—

Part VIII—Sections 133 and 134

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 133 (1) (c), 4 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.).

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting this report, I would like first of all to pay tribute to my predecessor, the late Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite. As Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector I developed the utmost respect for the dedicated way in which he carried out the duties of his office. He had a very comprehensive knowledge of public health engineering and his competent way in dealing with the usual wide range of problems associated with environmental health was of great benefit to the Council. Mr. Couperthwaite's professional attainments were numerous, but I shall remember him most of all for his many human qualities which endeared him to all members of the Staff. Both the Council and the Local Government Service have lost a first class Chief Officer.

It is becoming an annual feature to comment upon new legislation affecting the scope of the duties to be carried out by the District Inspectors and the year under review saw the coming into force of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. This is a complicated piece of legislation, and it was soon obvious that, if the duties laid down were to be effectively discharged, an additional Inspector would have to be appointed. More work will also result from the Government's insistence on an all-out effort to modernise sub-standard houses in the shortest possible time.

The text of the Report presents a broad outline of the functions of the Department and I would, therefore, like to refer specifically in the introduction to sewerage and drainage, housing, water supplies and the slaughtering and dressing of poultry:—

1. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, ETC.

(a) Schemes in Hand

- (i) The Barton, Broughton and Goosnargh Scheme, which also serves areas of Whittingham and Woodplumpton and parts of the Parishes of Bilsborough and Myerscough in the Garstang R.D. was completed in 1964 along with house connections. It is not always appreciated, except by householders affected, that the work of house connections can cause a great deal of disturbance and inconvenience (i.e. by excavations cutting across paths, gardens, fences, etc.). A compensatory factor to the people concerned was that the Council also bore the whole of the cost of the work of house connections at an additional average cost per house of £63. Complaints of damage, unsatisfactory reinstatement of cuttings and in a few instances of houses not being connected to the public sewers had to be investigated but nearly all have now been satisfactorily resolved.
- (ii) The Council is anxious to proceed with the abandonment of the existing sewage treatment works at Farington and construct new out-fall sewers to the Leyland Sewerage Scheme, and at the same time incorporate a further 90-100 houses (which are at present served by septic tanks) into the general sewerage system for the Parish.

- (iii) Large scale residential development in the Parishes of Hutton, Longton and Hoole will shortly require the future extension of the existing works serving these Parishes, the layout of which provides for such an extension to be made.
- (iv) Preparation of a scheme to provide new trunk and relief sewers and new treatment works for Penwortham is well advanced and it is confidently expected that tenders for this work will be invited in 1965. Preliminary steps are already being taken to acquire land for pumping station sites, etc.
- (v) Consulting Engineers are also preparing a scheme for the provision of modern sewerage facilities to serve the Parish of Ribchester, including new sewage works to be constructed on a different site from the existing works (which are subject to flooding), and new public sewers. The existing treatment works were laid down at the turn of the century and could aptly be described as a "museum piece".
 Serious flooding occurred in this Parish in June and December and several houses were affected. The June flooding was due to heavy rainfall on high ground to the north of the village resulting in a number of streams and culverts passing through the vilage being unable to take the volume of water discharged into them. The level of water in the River Ribble at this time was comparatively low. Discussions took place with representatives of the Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire River Authority to see what measures could be taken to prevent a recurrence of flooding from this source. The outcome is that the Lancashire River Authority is at present making a detailed survey of the area prior to preparing a scheme for the joint consideration of the Authorities concerned. The December flooding was due to the main river overflowing its banks and this problem offers no easy solution. Nearly all the houses in the area subjected to flooding from the River are sub-standard and likely to be demolished, within the next few years, under the appropriate provisions of the Housing Acts. The house worst affected has already been dealt with and will be demolished very soon.

(b) Unsewered areas still to be dealt with

- (i) The Parish of Lea has three residential areas and the principal one, lying on the north and south sides of Blackpool Road comprising some 845 properties, is already connected to the public sewerage system. The other two areas—the hamlet of Lea Town and the Hoyles Lane area—are in urgent need of public sewerage facilities.

Lea Town could be connected to the Joint Valley sewer at the Lea Gate Pumping Station, but so far as unsewered areas are concerned this must take second place to Woodplumpton.

With regard to Hoyles Lane, it is virtually impossible to decide upon the degree of priority to be given. The current planning proposals restrict development to infilling only but the possible effect of Boundary Commission recommendations, which could lead to radical changes in the whole pattern of development in this area, cannot be overlooked. There is also the fact that the long straggled out ribbon development makes the provision of public sewerage facilities exceptionally costly.

- (ii) The preparation of a suitable scheme to sewer the village of Woodplumpton is to be given first priority and preliminary work will commence in 1965.

It will be seen from this brief review that substantial progress has now been made with the formidable task (particularly in terms of finance) of providing adequate sewerage facilities for the Rural District.

2. HOUSING—IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1964, extend the powers of Local Authorities to secure the improvement of existing dwellings and provide the impetus for an intensification of effort to deal with the formidable task of modernising sub-standard housing accommodation as quickly as possible. Apart from making changes in grants to owners who voluntarily undertake improvements, the new Act gives local councils power to require the improvement of houses in "Improvement Areas" defined by them, or any individual houses where tenants have asked for this.

Improvement Schemes completed during the year included the reconditioning and modernisation of the outstanding 18th Century Almshouses at Stydd, Ribchester, which date from 1730, and possess a unique ornamental style of architecture. The works carried out on each almshouse attracted a maximum grant of £400 and included abolition of the existing pail closet and provision of internal water closet, bath and lavatory basin. Since the inception of the grant scheme a total of 327 applications have received approval of which 61 per cent. have been made by owner-occupiers. The grant aid in respect of these applications amounts to just over £45,000.

3. WATER SUPPLIES

It was reported last year that discussions had been held with the Preston and District Water Board with regard to the practicability of extending the Board's mains in Dutton, so as to serve an additional 34 properties leaving only 18 in the Parish relying on private supplies. This work is now well advanced and should be completed in 1965. The area in question is remote and sparsely populated and the Council will be called upon to make a capital contribution towards the cost of the scheme. At the year end works had also commenced on a limited extension of the Inglewhite Water Scheme involving about 10 properties in the Beacon Fell area of Goosnargh, including a Boy Scouts Camp.

4. THE SLAUGHTERING AND DRESSING OF POULTRY

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, and the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, afford adequate control over the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs and ensure that the public is provided with a food product which has been thoroughly examined and fit for human consumption.

The Poultry Trade, on the other hand, receives in comparison only a negligible amount of control and inspection. Two factors operate against effective control in the Council's area; the absence of any legislation specifically designed for the trade and the large number of poultry slaughterhouses in the district.

I, therefore, feel that the time is now opportune for the appropriate Ministries to investigate the trade and make suitable recommendations for the early introduction of legislation requiring, inter alia, premises to be licensed by

the Local Authority, prescribing standards of hygiene and requiring Regulations to be made in connection with the prevention of cruelty.

I cannot conclude this report without recording my appreciation of the efficient way in which the Staff carried out their many duties, and expressing my thanks to all those Members of the Council with whom I came into contact, for their unfailing courtesy, interest and understanding.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BAXTER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISIT

Inspection of dwelling-houses	109
Insanitary drainage	212
Ditches and Watercourses	60
Middens	6
Dirty condition of premises	1
Other visits relating to nuisances	299
Infectious disease	266
Verminous premises and persons	1
Waste Foods Order	7
Milk and Dairies	145
National Assistance Act	6
Food premises	412
Shops	179
Factories	33
Caravans	71
Schools	15
Hotels, Inns, etc.	15
Ice-cream premises	33
Hawkers	12
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	5
Housing Acts—Discretionary and Standard Grants	618
Clean Air Act	19
Closet conversions	17
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	35
Water supply	49
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	141
Knacker's Yard	7
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	132
Housing applications	34
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	23
Noise Abatement Act	5
Houses in multi-occupation	2
Other visits	328
	<hr/>
	3298
	<hr/>

NOTICES SERVED

Informal	105
Formal	17

SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	13
Defective Ceilings	7
Defective Closet Pails	1
Defective Closet Structures	2
Defective Doors	4
Defective Floors	5
Defective Gutters	4
Defective Paving	2
Defective Downspouts	3
Defective Roofs	10
Defective Chimneys	5
Defective Pointing	3
Defective Walls	9
Defective Brickwork	4
Defective W.C.s	4
Defective Windows	15
Defective Woodwork	5
Defective Fire Ranges	2
Absence of Washing Facilities	1
Insanitary Drainage	163
Ditches and Watercourses	47
Dirty Condition of Premises	1
Middens	6
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	3
Defective Sinks	2

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The District Public Health Inspectors made 212 visits with regard to complaints of insanitary drainage and for the purpose of drain testing, and 60 visits in connection with fouled ditches and watercourses. Following discussions with the Managements of a Cotton Mill and a Brewery (arising out of complaints of nuisance due to the discharge of trade effluent into watercourses), applications were made by the firms concerned for consent to discharge their trade effluents into public sewers. Both applications were approved by the Council, subject to certain conditions including the payment of appropriate charges.

12,367 inhabited houses out of a total of 14,807 are connected to the public sewers, and during 1964 there were 636 new houses so connected. At the end of 1964, the position in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses was:

No. of fresh water closets	14304
No. of waste water closets	89
No. of pail closets	414

The pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the scattered areas. The following conversions took place during 1964:—

No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	9
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	9

There are outfall works at Barton (serving major areas of Barton, Broughton and Whittingham, small areas of Goosnargh and Woodplumpton, and parts of Bilsborrow and Myerscough in the Garstang R.D.), Farington, Longton (serving almost the entire parish of Longton, major areas of Hutton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole, and a small part of Farington bordering on the Longton boundary), Penwortham and Ribchester.

SEWAGE TANK CLEANSING SERVICE. The Council's special vehicle and crew were actively engaged throughout the year on a diversity of tasks. Apart from local authority requirements (which included pumping out settling tanks and sludge lagoons at sewage works, etc.), tanks serving the under-mentioned premises were emptied:—

Council Houses	160
Private Houses	359
Hotels	17
Schools	8
Knacker's yard	4
Factories	4

A free service, on not more than two occasions per annum, is provided for domestic premises. At other premises, income from rechargeable work amounted to £251.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The 266 visits made in connection with infectious diseases were related principally to outbreaks of sonne dysentery, gastro enteritis and infective hepatitis occurring amongst school children.

Terminal disinfection is only carried out when the occupier of any premises requests it, and this is generally when children, suffering from scarlet fever, are being nursed at home. No such requests were made during the year under review.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

This Act places duties on local authorities to require, in certain circumstances, the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where workers are employed, and of ensuring that conveniences on such farms, whether or not provided at the authorities' instance, are kept clean.

The general condition of sanitary conveniences at farms and other premises in the Rural District, where workers are employed, is satisfactory. A careful examination is also made of all applications for planning permission for such development as large piggeries, etc., to ascertain whether adequate provision of sanitary and washing accommodation has been made for persons likely to be employed on the premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The number of shops on the register rose during 1964 by seven, from 328 to 335, and in accordance with the delegated scheme of duties, 179 inspections were made and reports prepared and submitted to the Lancashire County Council. Infringements of the Act related mainly to the absence of necessary records where young persons were employed.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is a privately owned swimming pool in the district which is open to members of a special organisation.

A chlorination and infiltration plant is installed and is efficiently supervised by trained staff. The water, which is obtained from the public main, is changed every four hours and highly satisfactory bacteriological results have been obtained.

The Council has given preliminary consideration to the provision of a public swimming baths, chiefly for the large urbanised locality of Penwortham, but have decided to defer the matter until the time is more opportune.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act is an important milestone in our social history and is designed to assist in securing a good environment for employees in offices and shops. The main provisions are concerned with improving conditions relating to health, safety and welfare of employees, and the part of the Act administered by Local Authorities and the Regulations made thereunder are being fully implemented by the Council. A report has been prepared which includes the prescribed particulars referred to in L.A. Circular 5 issued by the Ministry of Labour and also a comprehensive narrative outlining the progress already made (i.e. 91 per cent. of the registered premises had received a general inspection at the end of 1964). The Report was presented to the Council in January, 1965.

RENT ACT, 1957

There is no action to record under this Act.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1961

The Council's Provisional Slum Clearance Programme, submitted to the Minister on the 11th November, 1955, comprised 266 dwelling-houses, 115 of which it was intended to deal with by way of Clearance Orders and 151 by individual Demolition Orders.

Following representation by certain owners to have their properties removed from the original programme, and after consideration of the representations by the Council, a revised programme was submitted to the Minister on the 21st October, 1958, and approved. The revised programme comprised 201 dwelling-houses, 53 to be dealt with by Clearance Orders and 148 by individual Demolition Orders.

As a result of action already taken by the Council and informal action by certain owners, the present position is as follows:

1.	No. of dwelling houses dealt with formally	131	
2.	No. of dwelling houses dealt with informally	34	
		—	165
3.	No. of dwelling houses where action is deferred for special reasons	33	
4.	No. of dwelling houses where action is to be taken	3	
		—	36
			—
			201
			—

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1957.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1964 inclusive:

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished. or closed		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
			Form- ally.	Inform- ally.	Not to be used for human habitation.	Re-construction	Re-construction or conversion to other use	Not to be used for human habitation.	
Barton	...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	29	3	I	I	...	...	I
Goosnargh	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea	...	...	9	2	I	I	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	I	I	...	I	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	34	5	4	6	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	...	4	...	...	3	...	I	...
Penwortham	...	...	46	9	3	3	2	...	I
Ribchester	...	...	9	...	7	2	...	...	2
Samlesbury	...	...	9	3	...	I	...	...	I
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	22	5	5	2	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	171	29	24	23	2	I	5

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—1.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—105.

CARAVANS

Strict control is maintained over the stationing of residential caravans on unlicensed sites, and for this purpose, 71 visits were made by the District Public Health Inspectors during 1964.

13 applications for planning permission to site residential caravans in the Rural District were dealt with, and 12 received approval generally for a limited period. In the case of the application which was refused, an appeal was made but subsequently withdrawn. Enforcement action had to be taken under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts in order to clear vans from two sites.

Six new site licences were issued and five existing licences renewed and altogether 19 licences remain in force in respect of 48 vans. Six of the licences for the stationing of 24 residential vans are for permanent sites. A large residential site (5.35 acres in extent to accommodate not more than 78 vans) for which a permanent planning permission had been given, was brought into use towards the end of 1964. An important feature is that each caravan will have a connection to the main drainage system.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1961

Complaints of excessive noise are now rarely received and those that are generally related to noise created by ventilating fans in broiler houses and to the "neighbour's dog". As regards the former, it is possible, where prior information is received that a new cabin is to be erected, to reduce the risk of nuisance from noise by advising the owner on the siting and size of the fans to be installed and the speed at which they should rotate.

Although the Act is not very effective generally in suppressing noise (the measurement of noise is a very difficult matter, especially when preparing evidence to substantiate a formal complaint), it has brought about a public awareness of the problem.

The trouble is that a nuisance to one person may not be detrimental to the health of another. Some people complain about a continuous loud noise while others can accustom themselves to a continuous sound, but are seriously disturbed by a sudden, sharp, intermittent noise.

CLEAN AIR

The emission of "dark smoke" from chimneys serving industrial buildings situated in the Rural Area has now been almost eliminated, and this is the culmination of an intensive programme of consultation with Industrial Managements over the past seven years in connection with the installation of new boiler equipment incorporating special features of smoke control. The problem of grit emission from the chimneys of the Penwortham Electricity Generating Station has also received particular attention, and following the installation of oil-fired plant in the old "A" Station, other additional equipment has been recently installed in the "B" Station, which is expected to bring the exit burden well below 0.2 grain per cubic foot of grit and dust. Tests are at present being undertaken to measure the efficiency of the new equipment.

Anyone proposing to install a new furnace in a building is informed of the appropriate provisions of the Clean Air Act, and requested to submit particulars as to the type of furnace with its rated output, maximum heating load to which it will be subjected, details of instrumentation to be provided and the type of fuel to be used.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Rural District Council carries out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, delegated duties under this Order, and regular inspections are made of the 9 licensed premises, particular attention being paid to storage arrangements and general cleanliness.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply—action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

At the 31st December, 1964, there were 61 registered milk distributors in the area operating from:

- (a) dairies in the district 28
- (b) shops in the district other than dairies 33

Six dairies are on the register and their condition is satisfactory.

Milk Sampling

(a) Samples taken for Biological Examination		Results			
Nature of test		Positive	Negative	No result	
(i) Tuberculosis .....	—	....	85	....	—
(ii) Brucellosis—Ring Test	110	....	432	....	42
Culture Test	49	....	103	....	—
Biological Test	27	....	48	....	—

Altogether 584 samples were taken, of which 541 were individual cow samples.

(b) Samples taken for Statutory Tests

Nature of test		No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void samples
Raw Milk:					
(i) Methylene Blue	10	....	7	....	3
Heat-treated Milk:					
(i) Methylene Blue	8	....	8	....	—
(ii) Phosphotase	8	....	8	....	—
(ii) Turbidity	1	....	1	....	—

Action taken under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Ten producers were involved in the Brucellosis positive culture and biological results. In three instances informal arrangements were made for the infected milk supplies to be pasteurised; three producers had the infected animals slaughtered; in two cases the cows were removed from the herd, and in the remaining two cases formal notices were served under Regulation 20, prohibiting the sale of the infected milk for human consumption or the use of it in the manufacture of products for human consumption unless sufficiently heat treated. Where applicable the producers were advised to enlist the services of a Veterinary Surgeon and were assured that the local authority would render all possible assistance, including the taking of individual cow samples.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Licences have been issued in respect of 12 establishments situated in the Rural District, providing accommodation for 142 dogs and 84 cats.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1954—58

The Council provided a meat inspection service throughout the year at a slaughterhouse attached to Whittingham Hospital and at a small private slaughterhouse in the parish of Farington. 22 Slaughtermen have been licensed to carry out their trade. There is a licensed Knacker's Yard in the district, which dealt with 1,523 animals during 1964, categorised as follows:—

Donkeys	2	Sheep	411
Goats	6	Pigs	458
Horses	18	Cattle	628

A substantial number were dead on arrival.

The following figures illustrate the considerable increase in the volume of work undertaken by the Council's Meat Inspectors in recent years:

Year	Number of Animals killed
1960	137
1961	218
1962	359
1963	1250
1964	1268

FOOD PREMISES

412 visits were made to food premises (including manufacturing premises, restaurant and hotel kitchens) and two informal notices were served in connection with contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Almost half of the total number of visits were indirectly connected with the Aberdeen typhoid fever epidemic. Three new registrations were approved for the storage and sale of loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district, making a total of 154 premises now registered for this purpose. In addition, there are two where ice cream is manufactured and sold. 33 visits were made to manufacturers and retailers, and advice is regularly given which helps to secure the sale of a clean and satisfactory product to the consumer.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	—	—	2	11	4
Smoked bacon	—	—	—	23	—
Gooseberries	—	—	1	24	—
Salmon	—	—	—	6	8
Broken pineapple pieces	—	—	—	13	8
Dried apricots	—	3	2	4	—
Beans in tomato	—	—	—	12	8
Dessert pears	—	—	—	1	—
Tomato puree	—	—	—	6	—
Ham	—	—	3	8	—
Shoulder steak beef	—	—	—	19	—
Cooked ox tongue	—	—	—	3	—
Soup	—	—	—	—	12
Beef	—	—	—	4	—
Peaches	—	—	—	1	—
Semolina	—	—	—	5	8
Meat trimmings	—	—	1	17	—
Bones and fat	—	3	2	8	—
Potted meat	—	1	—	20	—
Luncheon meat	—	—	—	4	—
Sago	—	3	—	20	—
Oranges	—	—	1	2	—
Rice	—	6	—	—	—
Haricot Beans }					
Lentils	—	—	—	4	—
Sardines	—	—	—	—	4
Peas	—	8	—	8	—
Macaroni }					
Oatmeal }					
Apricots }					
Total	1	9	—	2	4

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the number of carcasses of animals inspected at the slaughter-house was :

Cattle (excluding cows)	205
Cows	34
Calves	Nil
Pigs	32
Sheep and Lambs	997

and the following meats were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

- 45 beasts' livers for distomatosis.
- 7 beasts' livers for abscess.
- 12 bullock livers (parts) for cirrhosis.
- 16 cows' livers for cirrhosis.

- 1 cow's heart for pericarditis.
- 2 cows' kidneys for chronic nephritis.
- 97 sheep livers for parasites.
- 22 sheep livers for distomatosis.
- 3 sheep livers for echinococcus cysts.
- 2 sheep livers for necrosis
- 1 sheep liver for parasites.
- 15 lamb livers for parasites
- 5 heifers' livers for cirrhosis.
- 9 heifers' livers for distomatosis.
- 1 sheep liver for abscess.
- 1 cow's offal for cysticercus bovis
- 3 beasts' offals, heads and tongues for cysticercus bovis
- 1 beast's lungs for abscess.
- 2 beasts' livers for parasites.
- 1 beast's head and tongue for abscess.
- 2 beasts' hearts for pericarditis.
- 1 beasts' pluck for parasites and pneumonia.
- 2 beasts' livers for cirrhosis.
- 3 beasts' spleens for slaughter spleen.
- 1 beast's lungs for parasites.
- 1 beast's head for actinomycosis.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned 17 cwts.

The carcasses of the animals infected with cysticercus bovis were confined to refrigeration for a period of three weeks.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives particulars of the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let off for Grazing	Ploughing
Barton	5	5	—	—
Broughton	5	5	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham	4½	4½	—	—
Farington	10	5½	4½	—
Goosnargh	4½	4½	—	—
Grimsargh	12	12	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16½	12	4½	—
Hutton	7	7	—	—
Lea	16½	4	12½	—
Little Hoole	4	4	—	—
Longton	6	6	—	—
Much Hoole	5	5	—	—
New Longton	9	9	—	—
Queensway, Penwortham	5	5	—	—
Penwortham Hall	18½	12½	6	—
Tardy Gate	5½	5½	—	—
Woodplumpton	6½	2½	4	—
Total	140½	109	31½	—

RODENT REPORT

STAFF

During the year two rodent operatives were employed.

SEWERS

The practice is to test bait 10 per cent of the manholes on the main sewerage systems in the month of May, and if evidence of infestation is found, pre-baiting and poison baiting is carried out, followed, after an interval of six months, by maintenance treatment. This work has increased considerably in recent years due to the completion of new schemes of sewerage, and also to the numerous housing sites under development in the district where open drain connections provide easy entry and exit for rats to and from the public sewers. To effectively control this source of infestation, frequent visits are made to the large building estates.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Barton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester were treated periodically and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

Three refuse tips were in operation during the year at Grimsargh, Much Hoole and Whittingham, and infestation was kept under control by regular treatments.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION

A routine survey of all premises was carried on throughout the year, and the following figures illustrate the extent of this work and the number of infestations found and dealt with.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses in the district	=	13,823
2.	Total number of agricultural premises	=	1,050
3.	Total number of business premises	=	460
4.	Total number of visits to premises :		
	(a) agricultural—(i) on contract work	=	870
	(ii) on survey inspection	=	299
	(b) dwelling houses	=	259
	(c) business—(i) on contract work	=	71
	(ii) on survey inspection	=	63
5.	Total number of infested premises :		
	(a) agricultural		
	Mice—major	=	2
	minor	=	29
	Rats—major	=	10
	minor	=	311
	(b) dwelling houses		
	Mice—major	=	3
	minor	=	24
	Rats—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	64
	(c) business		
	Mice—major	=	1
	minor	=	21
	Rats—major	=	3
	minor	=	26

6.	Total number of infestations dealt with :		
	(a) By the local authority—agricultural	=	339
	dwelling houses	=	80
	business	=	51
	(b) By occupiers	=	24
7.	Total number of informal notices served on occupiers	=	Nil
8.	Total number of formal notices served on occupiers under Section 4 of the Act	=	Nil
9.	Total number of formal notices of entry served on occupiers under Section 22 of the Act	=	Nil
10.	Total number of occupiers found to be carrying out their own treatment with Warfarin	=	71
11.	Total number of occupiers under contract with the local authority	=	167

BAITS AND POISONS

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of rat poison were used during the period under review.

CONTRACT SERVICE

The number of Contracts rose from 153 to 167 compared with the previous year and the fact that very few occupiers of agricultural land, participating in the Council's scheme, cancelled their Contracts, is a general indication of the satisfactory nature of the service. The area within a 20-mile radius of Preston holds the highest concentration of poultry in Great Britain, and it is extremely important that rodent control in the Rural District should operate at a high rate of efficiency.

In addition to the usual requests for assistance in dealing with large scale infestation of premises and hawthorn hedges by the caterpillar of the "Ermine Moth", infestation of cats, crickets and moles have also been dealt with on a time and materials basis. As regards the latter, a mole destruction service is now provided for farmers who have a rodent control contract with the Council. In dealing with infestations by the caterpillar of the "Ermine Moth", it is the practice in December of each year to spray hawthorn hedges etc., with a 5 per cent tar oil solution to kill the eggs and to facilitate this work a 3-gallon Knap-sack Sprayer is used.

A type of infestation which causes a great deal of difficulty occurs at lay-bys on trunk roads where stopping motorists dump particles of waste food in the litter basket provided or in the adjacent hedgerow. These lay-bys have become feeding places for rats and the Rodent Operatives have to make regular visits to keep infestations in check.

T. BAXTER,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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